RADIO COMIX

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TALES OF THE FEDNIK

Elin Winkler Scotty Arsenault

RADIO COMIX

JUNE 1998

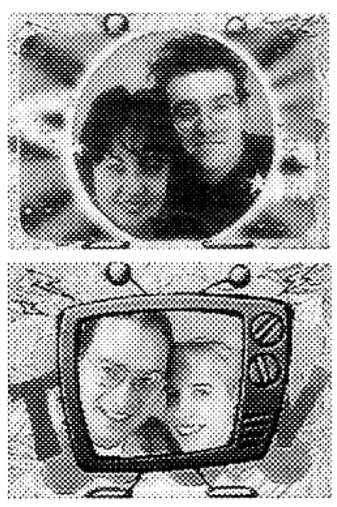
Radio Comix 11765 West Ave #117 San Antonio, TX 78216

Project A-Kon 9 Memories!

Radio Comix was everywhere at A-Kon 9! Starting with with pre-reg packs, A-Kon attendees were offered two free sample **Radio Comix** titles, a Program book with the cover drawn and colored by **Pat Duke** and a back cover featuring a cool **Radio Comix** ad announcing our new titles! **Radio Comix** also hosted several panels and our special con announcement was the acquisition of **Tsukasa Kotobuki's Mechanical Man Blues** (see related news release below) and an entire line of manga/anime comics beginning in September!

As well as being on several panels, **Elin** was a judge from the costume contest and **Pat** dressed up as **Master Chop Chop Onion** from **Parappa the Rapper!**!

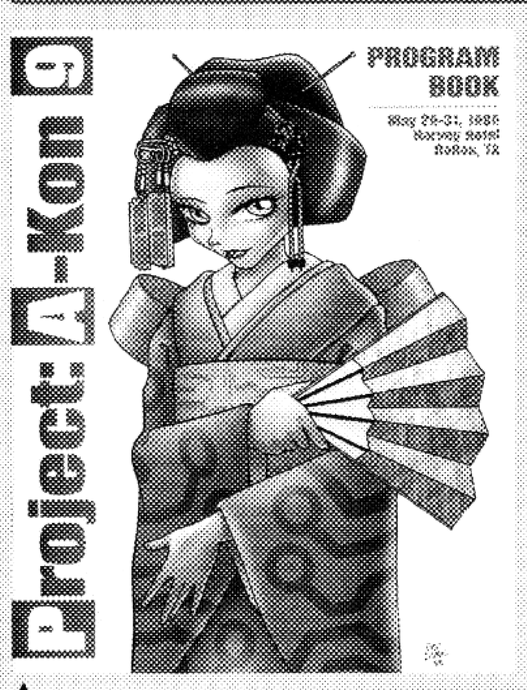
Print Club Pals!



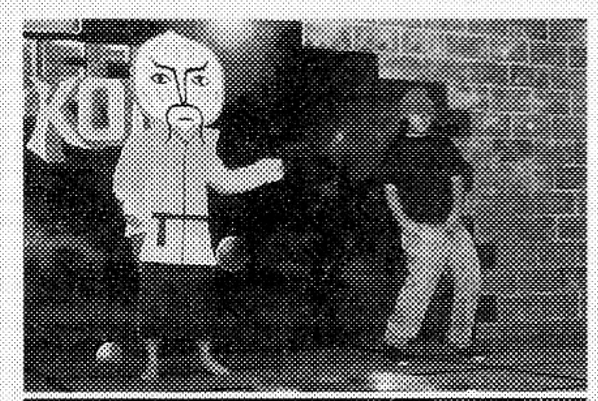
Pat and Elin traded Print Club Photos with pals Rikki and Tavisha, creators of the cool comic Reality Check!

Elin's con highlights: not getting sick at the con, being on the women in comics panel, and getting that last pesky Sakura Wars figure.

Pat's con highlights: hanging out with **Rikki** and **Tavisha**, talking about compressions codecs with **Shawn the Touched**, dressing up as a **Parappa** character and getting his Whisper of the Heart film comics from **Reijiro Kato**.



▲ **The nifty Program Guide to A-Kon 9, put together by the Radio Crew!**



◀ **Pat, in what can only be explained as a fit of temporary insanity, participated in the cos-play as Master Chop Chop Onion from Parappa the Rapper with pal Mike Suarez!**

◀ **Elin poses with her good friends Ippongi Bang and Mio Odagi, creators of Change Commander Goku and Magical Mates, respectively. More con photos are available on our website!**

The Hot Spot!

cool stuff we like

The stuff we were listening to, reading or playing with when we put these comics together!

Fave 7" LP:
The Kiss Offs "Bottle Blonde"/"The Kiss that Kills" Junior Varsity and Panther

Video Games:
Time Crisis 2
Sega Rally 2

Cool Comic
DHP #132, #133. Adam Warren Dirty Pair Story! Tones by Pat of ...Computer Comix! Huh?! Come on guys, Radio's not *THAT* hard to spell!

RADIO COMIX PLAYLIST

Various
042 Furrlough #66
Fab Fresh Furry Faves for Fans!

Various
043 Genus #30
5 year anniversary issue!

Winkler & Arsenault
044 Tales of the Fehnnik II #1
Finally, the long-awaited sequel!

Barnard & Smith
045 Havoc, INC. #2
Chester Chester Chester!

James Hardiman
046 Genus T-Shirt
Jim's Skunkwork design on black!

HYPER SPACE

RADIO COMIX KICKS OFF NEW MANGA LINE!

At Project A-kon 9, **Radio Comix** announced its plans for publishing a new manga/american manga line! In the lineup are **Morning Glory** by **Michael Vega** and **Loran Gayton**, **Trouble Express** by **Will Allison** and **Mechanical Man Blues** by **Tsukasa Kotobuki**! More titles to be announced!

Tsukasa Kotobuki is the character designer on **Battle Arena Toshinden** and **Saber Marionette J** and currently has a new anime show called **Cyber Team in Akibahara** running on Japanese television! He's also a regular contributer to the anthology **Nakayoshi** published by **Kodansha**! **Mechanical Man Blues** will feature two all-new covers drawn exclusively for the American market plus a special **Adam Warren** cover on issue three! The fun starts in December!

Morning Glory starts this September and **Trouble Express** debuts in November! Stay posted for previews!

RADIO COMIX SKETCHBOOK

The cover to **Morning Glory** #1 by **Michael Vega** and **Loran Gayton**!

Publishers Pat Duke & Elin Winkler
Retailer Liaison Matthew High

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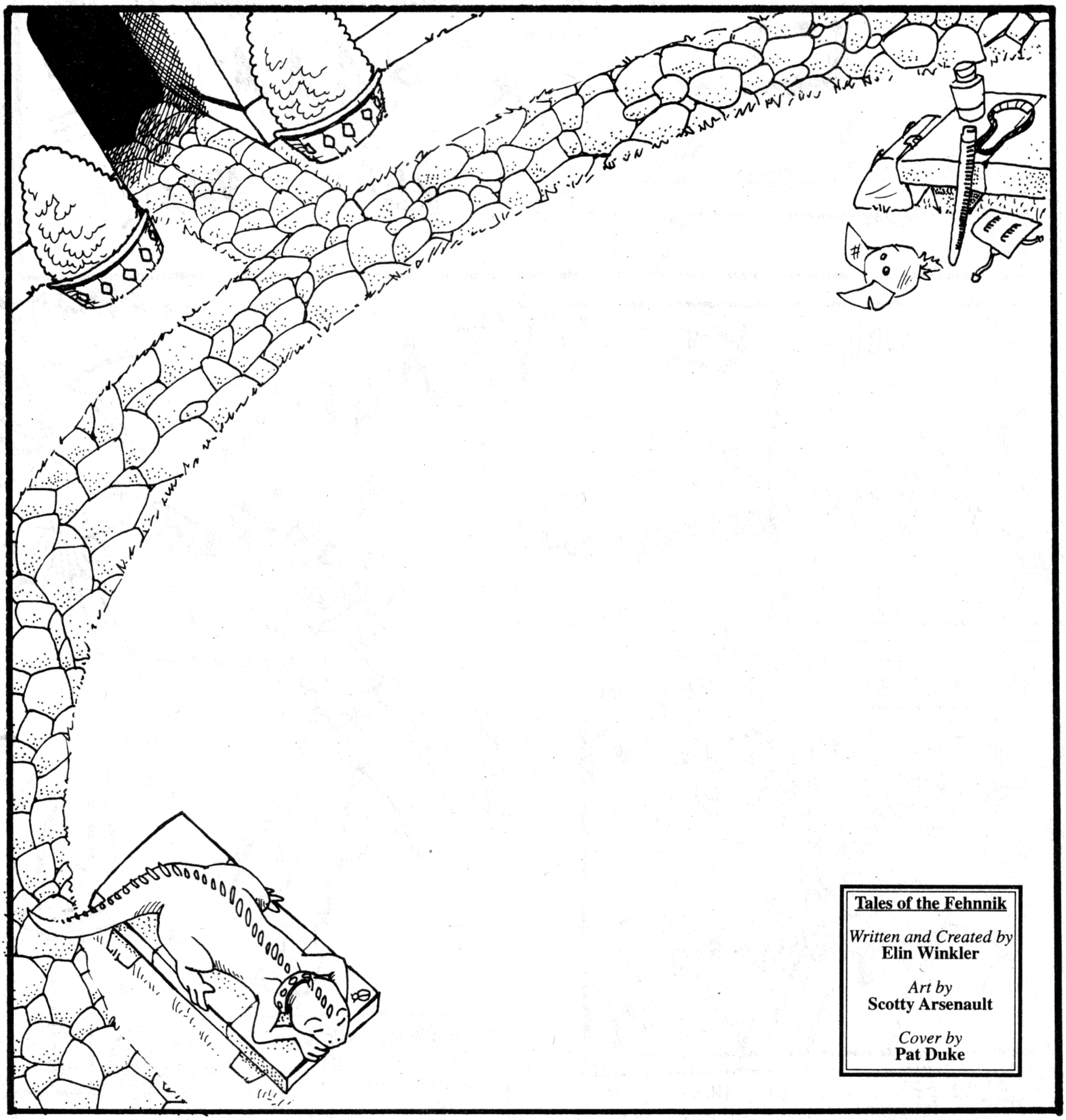
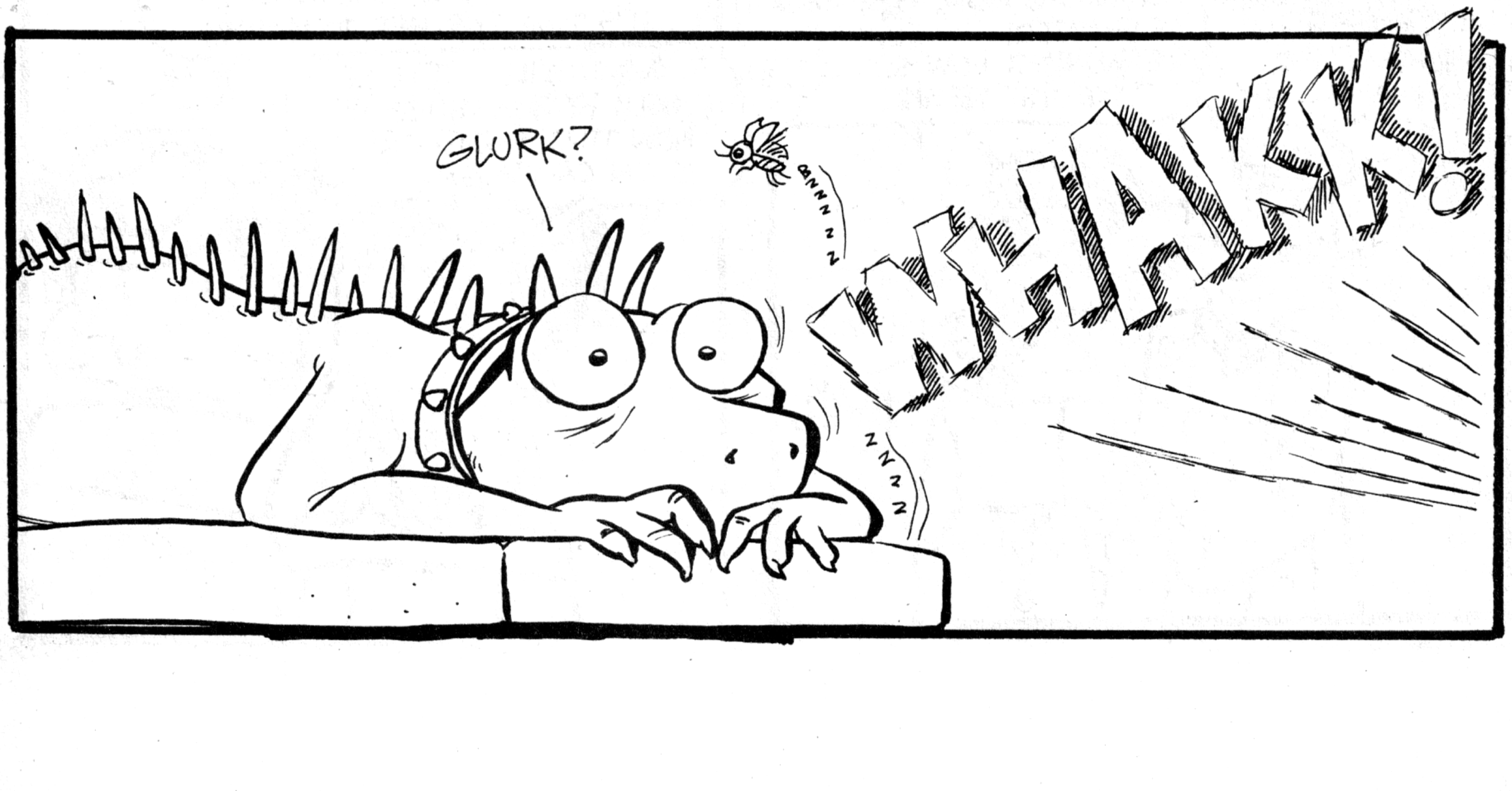


Tales of the Fehnnik

Written and Created by
Elin Winkler

Art by
Scotty Arsenault

Cover by
Pat Duke



!
RRRAAAHHR!
KLAK!
WHAK!

KII-YYAAAHH!
YIPE!
uff!
SKRRCHT!
SHE'S GETTING BETTER, ISN'T SHE?
MMM... SHE PRACTICES OUT OF SHEER STUBBORNESS. SHE HATES HER LESSONS...
WE MAY HAVE LET HER HAVE HER OWN WAY TOO LONG, BUT SHE'LL HAVE TO... ACCEPT THINGS. SHE'S A YOUNG WOMAN NOW. IT'S TIME FOR HER TO MARRY.
I REMEMBER ANOTHER STUBBORN LADY MYSELF... LONG TIME AGO.
I DON'T THINK I WAS ANYWHERE NEAR AS STUBBORN AS SHAYZERI. --SIGH-- I WONDER HOW SHE'LL TAKE THE NEWS.
I KNOW. STILL... IT'LL BE LONELY HERE WITHOUT HER NOW THAT SHAYZORR IS ON CAMPAIGN.
HIYAH!
KLAK!

MISSING YOUR KITS ALREADY? SHE'S JUST GOING TO STAY WITH THISSTA FOR A WHILE...

I KNOW. IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S GETTING MARRIED QUITE YET. AND IT'S NOT LIKE THE HOUSE AFFAIRS WON'T KEEP ME BUSY, BUT...

AH, IT'LL BE JUST WHAT SHE NEEDS. A LITTLE VISIT WITH AUNT THISSTA AND THE CHANCE TO MEET SOME FRIENDS HER OWN AGE.

SHE'LL LOVE IT!

GLUCK?

MAKE SOME FRIENDS, YOU MEAN... THAT IS, IF ANY OF THE GIRLS THERE CAN STAND HER **TEMPER**.

WHACK!

THUNK!

DON'T FRET, DEAR. IT WILL WORK OUT. I'M OFF TO DRESS FOR THE **FEAST**. SEE IF YOU CAN'T GET OUR LITTLE FIGHTER IN TO DO THE SAME, WILL YOU?

MMM...

HFF... HFF...

?

HIIYAAH! CHONK! SWISH! HWAAH! UNNG! HAAH! SWAP! HTT! KRAKK!

SHAYZERI! IT'S TIME TO STOP NOW, KITLING!

COME ON NOW! WE'LL BE FEASTING SOON, AND I **DON'T** WANT YOU TO BE **LATE!**

I'LL BE IN IN A MINUTE!

AND **CLEAN UP**, TOO! I DON'T WANT YOU SMELLING LIKE A **SAND-CAT**, EITHER!

GLURK!

NO, MOTHER.

?

GRRAARR!

SWIPE!

PRETTY SLOW, **SAND FLEA.**

SH--- SHAYZORR?

SHAYZORR! WHAT ARE YOU DOING **HOME**? I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON CAMPAIGN FOR TWO MORE **MONTHS**!

WHOA! LOOSEN THE STRANGLEHOLD, SIS!

HUG!

WE WERE RECALLED HOME – CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT YET...

SO TELL ME... WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

I'M **HUNGRY!**

AFTER BEING IN SPACE, **THAT'S** WHAT YOU ASK ABOUT?!

FATHER'S PLANNING A **FEAST** TONIGHT. JUST A BUNCH OF BORING FAMILY AND STUFF. I WAS GOING TO TRY TO SNEAK OUT EARLY, BUT NOW THAT **YOU'RE** HERE, IT WON'T BE SO BAD!

A FEAST, EH? WHAT'S THE **OCCASION?**

OH, SOME ANNOUNCE-MENT OF FATHER'S. HE AND MOTHER HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY MYSTERIOUS LATELY. WHO KNOWS? MAYBE WE'LL BE GETTING A NEW LITTLE **KIT.**

HEH HEH... I DOUBT THAT'S IT...

UM... IT COULD BE **IMPORTANT.**

I REALLY NEED TO TALK TO FATHER.

...SEE YOU TONIGHT.

?

WHAT - YOU GETTING SPACY FROM YOUR EXOTIC TRAVELS?

VERY FUNNY. IS FATHER IN HIS QUARTERS?

MOST LIKELY... YOU GONNA SURPRISE HIM? HE HATES THAT.

THAT'S PRECISELY WHY I'LL DO IT...

YOU'D BETTER SCOOT, OR YOU'LL DISGRACE THE FAMILY NAME, LOOKIN' LIKE THAT AT A FEAST.

LIKE I CARE!

(Deep Breath)

BORING...

BORING...

BORING...

BOR...?

...but Durzan!

Not another word, Sivitha! I swear I'll..

TWINS SMILE ON YOU, SIVITHA.

TW-- TWINS SMILE ON YOU... SHAYZERI...

GLARE

GLARE

GLARE

POOR SIVITHA...

Hello, mother.

Hello, Aunt Thissta.

MARRIED OFF TO A BASTARD LIKE DURZAN...

HE'S DOWNRIGHT **MEAN** TO HER.

I'M THANKFUL MOTHER DOESN'T HAND ME OFF TO SOME JERK JUST TO HELP OUR HOUSE.

I WONDER WHERE SHAYZORR IS?

CLAP CLAP!

MY FRIENDS!

THE HOUSE OF ZODD IS YOUR HOME THIS EVENING! I WELCOME YOU ALL TO OUR CELEBRATION!

SIP

AS YOU ALL KNOW, I INVITED YOU ALL HERE TONIGHT TO OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE...

THE ELIGIBILITY OF MY ONLY DAUGHTER, SHAYZERI!

ACK!

HWUURF !?!

...BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...

Ladies?

WAP! WAP! WAP!

heh heh... nothing! Go ahead!

KOFF! KOFF! ACK!

MY SON SHAYZORR HAS RETURNED HOME WITH NEWS THAT AFFECTS US ALL!

I HAVE HERE NEWS FROM THE EMPEROR'S HAND!

THIS IS URGENT, SO I'LL GET RIGHT TO IT.

FOUR DAYS AGO, OUR MAIN OUTPOST ON THAREV WAS ATTACKED BY A VICIOUS NEW ENEMY!

THE HAAREA!

THEY HAVE WIPED OUT HALF THE FORCES GARRISONED THERE!

PREPOSTEROUS!! THE HAAREA HAVE DONE THIS?

HALF THE TROOPS!

THE WHO?

I UNDERSTAND YOUR SHOCK, MY FRIENDS...

THAREV! MY HUSBAND IS THERE!

BUT FEHNNIA WILL **NOT** LET THIS GO UNPUNISHED!

WE SHALL HAVE **WAR!** THESE HAAREA WILL LEARN WHAT VENGEANCE TASTES OF!

THUMP! THUMP

TO WAR!!

WAR!

WAR!

EMPEROR ARZAAN HAS RECALLED ALL TROOPS HOME TO FEHNNIA TO PREPARE FOR BATTLE.

THEY WILL NOT FIND THAREV THE EASY TARGET THEY ANTICIPATED!

THE EMPEROR HAS ALREADY DECLARED ALL MERCENARY CONTRACTS VOID UNTIL THE WAR IS WON.

ANY NOBLE WHO CONTINUES TO HONOR ANY CONTRACT IN THAT TIME WILL BE STRIPPED OF NOBLE RANK...

...AND TRIED FOR TREASON.

THEN EMPEROR ARZAAN HAS CALLED THE HOUSES?

YES, OLD FRIEND. LATER TONIGHT, I WILL BE PREPARING FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING TOMORROW. I'LL WELCOME ANY LORDS WHO WISH TO DISCUSS MATTERS FURTHER.

BUT... FEHNNIA WILL NOT BE IN ANY DANGER TONIGHT! LET US DRINK TO THE HOLY TWINS!

TO THE TWINS!!

TO FEHNNIA!

TO VICTORY!!

--WHEW-- GLAD THAT'S DONE.

FLUMP

NOTHING WORSE THAN BEING THE BEARER OF BAD NEWS.

HMMPH..

YOU SEEMED TO DO A GOOD **JOB** OF IT. QUITE THE **SPEECH**, SHAYZORR.

HEY- I'M JUST DOING MY DUTY AS A LOYAL SUBJECT OF FEHNNIA! IT HURTS MY EARS TO THINK I'VE COME HOME JUST TO **LEAVE** AGAIN!

AT LEAST YOU **CAN** LEAVE. DIDN'T YOU HEAR? I'M GONNA BE **SOLD OFF** TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER!

ZERI, WE'RE GOING TO WAR, AND YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT GETTING MARRIED?

I DETEST THE IDEA OF SPENDING MY LIFE ON THIS PLANET!

HMPH--MAYBE IT'S BEST THEY'LL BE SENDING YOU TO AUNT THISSTA'S 'HOME FOR WAYWARD GIRLS' FIRST!

TSK--! OHH!

DO I NEED TO REMIND YOU I WHIPPED YOUR TAIL LAST TIME YOU CAME HOME?

OW! OKAY! OKAY!

PINCH!

B-BESIDES, YOU MAKE A BETTER ALLY THAN AN ENEMY.

ALLY? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, LITTLE SISTER? I'VE BEEN OFFPLANET FOR SIX MONTHS!

I WANT TO LIVE LIFE TO IT'S FULLEST BEFORE I'M SHIPPED OFF AGAIN!

Pfft...

TEE HEE!

YOU WANT TO VISIT THAT GIRL ON RIBBON STREET, YOU MEAN!

HOW DO YOU PLAN ON SKIPPING FATHER'S LITTLE WAR COUNCIL?

and I'm older by three minutes, fuzzy!

THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN!

YOU'LL COVER FOR ME, WON'T YOU?

NO! I WON'T COVER FOR...

HEY! COME BACK HERE, YOU!

AHEM

THANKS, SIS!

TP TP TP

DAMN!

AND OFF HE GOES, WHILE I HAVE TO **SIT** HERE AND LOOK DE**MURE**.

I CAN'T BE**LIEVE** THEY'RE SENDING ME TO THISSTA...

SIP

... AND THEN OFF TO THE **BLOCK**.

BEEP

SIGH...

AH... **THAT'S** OVER... NOW WE CAN **REST** A BIT WHILE YOUR FATHER IS CLOSETED WITH HIS **CRONIES**.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, KITLING?

LET ME GUESS... ABOUT SHAYZORR LEAVING THE FEAST EARLY?

HE DESERVES **SOME** FUN AFTER BEING AWAY SO LONG... DON'T BEGRUDGE HIM **THAT**...

OR IS IT YOU'RE ANGRY ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S **ANNOUNCEMENT?**

...I KNOW WE SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU **FIRST**, BUT —

TWCH TWCH

BUT **WHAT?** YOU WERE AFRAID I MIGHT MAKE A SCENE AND **EMBARRASS YOU??**

SH'AYZERI, DEAR... WE'VE WAITED AS LONG AS WE **COULD.** YOU'RE OLDER THAN **I** WAS WHEN I —

I KNOW, I KNOW... IT'S MY **DUTY** TO THE **HOUSE**... I THOUGHT AT LEAST **YOU'D** UNDERSTAND.

UNDERSTAND WHAT?

WE'VE INDULGED YOU TOO LONG, KITL...

NO, YOU'VE INDULGED **SHAYZORR** TOO LONG,... **MOTHER!**

I DON'T WANT TO MARRY! AND IF I **HAVE** TO, I **CERTAINLY** DON'T WANT TO BE 'FATTENED UP' AND **AUCTIONED OFF!!**

MAYBE IF YOU HADN'T TOLD ME THOSE STORIES OF THE **ALLIANCE** SO OFTEN, I'D HAVE GROWN UP NICE AND **OBEDIENT** AND... AND...

STOMP STOMP

TRACTABLE!!

I DO UNDERSTAND, KITLING...

SNFF...

I DO...

BEEP
BOOP

YES?

BZZTZERIZZT
ZZBZZTZZZZ

HELLO?

ZZZT
BZZZTZERIZZ
ZZZZBZZTZZ

BOOP

SHAYZORR? IS THAT **YOU?**

BZZZELPZEEZZZ

GET CLOSER TO THE **SPEAKER**, I CAN'T MAKE OUT WHAT YOU'RE **SAYING!**

BZZZRTZT

ZZBZZIZZ

WHY ARE YOU CALLING SO **LATE?**

I SAID... 'YOU'RE NOT GONNA **BELIEVE** THIS, ZERI.'

=GROOOOAN=

✿Ribbon Street

...JUMPED OUT A **WINDOW?** CRAWLED ACROSS THE ROAD WITH A BROKEN LEG AND ARM, AND **NOBODY** STOPPED TO **HELP?**

WHY IN THE TWINS' NAME DID HE JUMP FROM **FOUR STORIES?**

YOU KNOW THE SAYING: 'YOU DON'T ASK QUESTIONS ON RIBBON STREET.'

um... TRYING TO IMPRESS A GIRL?

=SCOFF= YOU KNOW AS WELL AS **I** THAT THESE GIRLS DON'T **NEED** 'IMPRESSING'.

HE SHOULD BE CLOSE BY, LADY ZODD.

THERE HE IS.

YES. I'M ONLY GLAD HE'S GOT TWO LIMBS **LEFT** THAT I CAN **BREAK** FOR HIM!

ZERI... THANK TWINS... -TOOK YOU LONG ENOU---

GAH!! YOU BROUGHT **MOTHER**?!

COVER COVER -OW!- COVER

WELL, I COULDN'T VERY WELL HELP IF SHE CAUGHT ME TRYING TO **SNEAK OUT!**

Be glad you got ***anyone!***

can we talk about it at home?

PREPARE THE STRETCHER.

SHAYZORR, I AM **VERY** DISAPPOINTED IN YOU! WHAT **POSSESSED** YOU TO JUMP OUT A **FOURTH FLOOR WINDOW?**

A JEALOUS PATRON, THAT'S WHAT... **OW!** YEEEEEE!

=SIGH= I HOPE NO ONE **SAW** US. LADY ZARAST WOULD HAVE A **FIELD DAY** WITH THIS SCANDAL.

WHO WAS THIS PATRON? DO WE HAVE TO **BRIBE** ANYONE?

I DON'T THINK HE **SAW** ME.

I CERTAINLY DIDN'T SEE **HIM!**

TEMAR? YOU'RE HERE **TOO?**

YOU DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD, SIR.

WE HAD TO ASK HIM. D'YOU THINK MOTHER OR I WOULD KNOW OUR WAY AROUND... AROUND **THIS** PLACE?

I DIDN'T KNOW ESTAR HAD A PATRON! HE **BARGED** IN, AND I **TOOK OFF!**

OUT A **WINDOW**, SIR?

HOW **TERRIBLY** ROMANTIC... BETTER BRIBE 'ESTAR', MOTHER... OUR GREAT LOVER HERE LEFT ALL HIS **INSIGNIA** WITH HER.

TWINS HELP ME...

SO WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?

YES. BUT WITH **REST**. HE SHOULDN'T MOVE THOSE LIMBS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

several... BUT I'M SCHEDULED TO GO OFF-PLANET IN **TWO WEEKS!**

YOU SHOULD HAVE **THOUGHT** OF THAT BEFORE YOU TOOK YOUR **LEAP**, YOUNG MAN.

POKE POKE

IF YOU SHOULD NEED ANY MORE SERVICES, LADY ZODD, DON'T HESITATE TO CALL... GOOD NIGHT.

THANK YOU, DOCTOR. SORRY TO HAVE GOTTEN YOU UP SO **LATE**.

...CLICK...

DAMMIT! WHAT AM I S'POSED TO **DO**? I GOTTA REPORT FOR **DUTY** IN TWO WEEKS! I CAN'T SHOW UP LIKE **THIS!**

TSK...

NOK! NOK! NOK! NOK!

SHAYZORR, DARLING, I'M SURE SOME ARRANGEMENT CAN BE MADE...

NO DISRESPECT, AUNTIE, BUT I KNOW **EXACTLY** WHAT ARRANGEMENTS THOSE WOULD BE.

I'D BE REDUCED TO COMMANDING A CORPS OF **SUPPLY CLERKS** HERE ON **FEHNNIA!**

WHAT SORT OF HONOR CAN I BRING TO THE **ZODD** NAME BY **SCANNING BOXES?**

What a fur-brain... If it had been me, I would've...

UM, NOT TO SPEAK OUT OF TURN, LADIES, BUT AS A MEMBER OF SHAYZORR'S PERSONAL CADRE, I'D BE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW HIM.

...if it had been **me**...

YEAH, AND NO DOUBT THAT **ZARAST** WOULD **LOVE** TO POINT OUT TO THE **EMPEROR** THAT NO **ZODDS** WERE JOINING THE FIGHT AGAINST THE HAAREA...

THAT WOULD BE A BLOW TO FATHER'S **STATUS** IN **COUNCIL.**

IDEA!

MY, OH MY.

I UNDERSTAND THIS IS DIFFICULT AND UNPLEASANT, BUT WHAT **CHOICE** DO WE HAVE?

FATHER ISN'T GONNA LIKE THIS... HIS **ONLY SON** DENIED THE GLORY OF FIGHTING FOR FEHNNIA'S HONOR...

TWINS!

SMAK!

I HADN'T THOUGHT WHAT FATHER'S GONNA **DO TO ME!**

I'M DOOMED...

wanna fly out a window, eh??

Mooann...

THAT'S WHY I THINK...

I SHOULD TAKE HIS PLACE!

fan fan fan fan

WHAT!?

ARE YOU **CRAZY**, SAND-FLEA? **WOMEN** AREN'T ALLOWED OFF-PLANET!

IT'S THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO! I'LL **DISGUISE** MYSELF AS SHAYZORR, AND NO ONE WILL BE THE **WISER**!

CAN WE KEEP IT FROM **FATHER** SO HE WON'T **SKIN** ME?

I'D HAVE TO CUT MY **HAIR**.

YOU **DO** LOOK BOYISH ENOUGH...

Hey!

No, that's good!

grrrr...

SHAYZERI!

HAVE YOU COMPLETELY **FORGOTTEN** YOU'RE TO GO WITH YOUR AUNT THISSTA FOR **FINISHING??**

YOINK!

MOTHER!

DO I LOOK **UNFINISHED** TO YOU? THIS IS AN **EMERGENCY!** DO YOU WANT THOSE ZARASTS TO GET ANY LEVERAGE ON **FATHER?**

I'M SURE ALL **THEIR** SONS WILL BE GOING INTO BATTLE!

YOU KNOW, NIECE, YOUR DAUGHTER **DOES** HAVE A POINT...

YAMMER YAMMER

YAMMER!

YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE **GRAND MOTHER** NOW!

TWINS **HELP ME!** WHAT WILL I DO WITH SUCH A **HEADSTRONG** DAUGHTER??

OUCH!

I **DO,** DON'T I?

COME ON, MOTHER! WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT SENSE OF **ADVENTURE** FROM YOUR **STORIES?** I'LL BE **SAFE!**

BUT WHAT ABOUT **SHAYZORR?** HE CAN'T GAD ABOUT THE THREE CITIES WHILE HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE ON **CAMPAIGN!**

Ahem...

OF COURSE, SHAYZORR WILL COME BY TO MY VILLA TO RECUPERATE... WHILE SHAYZERI IS GONE--- THE SEA AIR WILL DO HIM **GOOD.**

PLEASE SAY YES, MOTHER! THE ONLY WAY WE COULD PULL THIS OFF IS IF YOU **HELPED!**

All those young ladies won't hurt eith--**OW!**

PINCH!

IT DOESN'T SEEM I HAVE MUCH **CHOICE,** DOES IT?

IF I KNOW YOU, YOU'D RUN OFF AND DO THIS **REGARDLESS!**

AT ANY RATE, IF I HELP, I'LL AT LEAST GET REPORTS ON HOW YOU'RE DOING!

YOU DON'T NEED TO SEND YOUR SPIES OUT ON ME, MOTHER.

TEMAR SA ZODD, YOU WILL BRING MY DAUGHTER BACK. I CHARGE YOU WITH HER **SAFETY.**

YES, LADY ZODD!

LET'S TALK IN MY QUARTERS. THE SHIELDING IS STRONGER THERE. IF EVEN A **WHISPER** OF THIS ESCAPES US...

INDEED. IT WOULD BE SLIGHTLY LESS THAN CATASTROPHIC..

YES.. SLIGHTLY. TAKE SHAYZORR HOME WITH YOU TONIGHT, THISSTA. UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, AS IT WERE.

AS YOU WISH, NIECE. I FEEL SO **SNEAKY!**

LET'S GO NOW. I WANT TO GET THIS ACCOMPLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Come along, Shayzeri...

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SOMETIMES, ZERI.

OH, ZORR! I CAN'T **BELIEVE** SHE SAID **YES**! THIS IS **UNREAL**!!

I feel like jumping out a window!

wise ears...

...ALWAYS DID KNOW YOU WERE DIFFERENT. NOW GET GOING, I WANT TO REST. AND YOU'LL PROBABLY WANT TO GET STARTED EARLY.

?

EARLY? YOU'RE NOT S'POSED TO LEAVE FOR TWO WEEKS, RIGHT?

I'LL JUST BRUSH UP ON SOME MILITARY TERMS, AND I'LL BE ALL SET.

WHAT'S THE **JOKE**, GUYS?

HEH HEH AHEM...

SNNKR...

IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO IMPERSONATE YOU...

I MEAN, WE'RE **TWINS**, RIGHT?

ER.. LADY SHAYZERI, ARE YOU **AWARE** OF YOUR BROTHER'S POSITION?

HE'S A NOBLE. WHAT'S SO HARD ABOUT THAT?

THIS IS **TRUE**, BUT...

HA HA HA HA!!

(sorry)

HEE HEE HEE oh, it hurts!

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR BROTHER IS THE **STAR GUNNER** FOR THE **ZODD FLEET?**

...YOU... YOU'RE SAYING YOU'RE AN **ODONATA GUNNER?**

flik! flik!

INDEED I **AM**, ZERIKIT! AND YOU JUST SIGNED ON TO CRAM SIX MONTHS OF GUNNER TRAINING IN **TWO WEEKS!**

WHILE **I** GET TO RECUPERATE BY THE BEACHES AT AUNT THISSTA'S VILLA!

nod nod

RUN ALONG TO MOTHER NOW. I'LL BET SHE'S PLANNED THIS WITHIN AN INCH OF ITS LIFE ALREADY!

HEH... YOU **WORRY** TOO MUCH ABOUT ME, SAND FLEA! HEH HEH...

TWO WEEKS!

I HAVE TO BECOME A **STAR GUNNER** IN TWO WEEKS?!

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF **INTO??**

SHAYZERI! COME ALONG, KITLING!

andi-

G.M.

Tales of the Fehnnik

A Word from the Author

Thank you for picking up this issue of **Tales of the Fehnnik**. It's been a long time in coming, but I couldn't be happier about the final product. Some of you may be familiar with the original one-shot which came out in August 1995 from Antarctic Press. Well, a lot can happen in three years. Obviously, the biggest thing to happen in those three years was the shift from Antarctic Press to the company I share with my partner, Pat Duke. This made working on a new issue of **TOTF** just a little more difficult, as I suddenly had a whole lot more on my plate. Equally big was the fact that I needed a new artist, since Pat Kelley was much too busy at Antarctic Press to draw any more issues. Mr. Kelley himself recommended Scotty Arsenault, who had previously done the popular "Heebas" strip in **Furrlough**. Scotty was delighted at the prospect, and soon found himself with the almost Herculean task of turning my words into fully realized pictures- a job he is doing excellently, I might add.

I do find it a bit odd that so far each issue of **Tales of the Fehnnik** has taken three years from conception to completion. I know we are certainly going to do our best to make sure the next issue happens a little sooner. You can also pack a lot of questions into three years, so I am going to take this opportunity to answer some of the most frequently asked ones. We're hoping this space will soon be filled up with letters, so feel free to write in! Also, since I can't come up with a good name for the letters page, Scotty and I have decided to make it a contest. The best name will be used for all subsequent issues, and we'll also give the winner an original Fehnnik drawing by Scotty!

1) What inspired you to do **Tales of the Fehnnik**?

Ooh, a tough one, but one I get a lot. Inspiration is kind of like a virus- you pick up germs from everything you see or touch or hear. There are certain books, movies, artists and comics that were a definite influence on **Tales of the Fehnnik**, though. Some just inspired me to do this crazy stuff. They are:

Courtship Rite by Donald Kingsbury- I think I first read this book when I was about 13. Every so often, I reread it and it still fascinates me. The world he has created is so well-realized it never ceases to amaze me.

Anything by Tanith Lee, especially **Day By Night**- Tanith Lee is one of my favorite authors in the entire universe, and again I started reading her work when I was about 13. Her writing is richly textured and complex, almost decadently descriptive. **Day By Night** most likely inspired the desert aspect of Fehnnia. I would never presume to think that I could ever write as well as Tanith Lee, though, since she has a mastery of English I could never hope to possess.

The High Inquest series by Somtow Sucharitkul- Both he and Tanith Lee inspired me to write and reading their work made me *want* to write. So he needs a mention, of course. **The High Inquest** series is epic science fiction at some of its best.

The Dark Crystal- The design work by Brian Froud for this classic film most definitely had an impact on me and is in part responsible for the ornamentation in the Fehnnik culture.

The art of Yoshitaka Amano- Amano-san's art really fires up my imagination!

Rose of Versailles (*Versailles no Bara*)- I'm more familiar with the *anime* than the original *manga*, but this beautiful tragic drama had a big impact on me.

The art of CLAMP- Best known for their *manga* works such as **Wish**, **Clover**, **Magic Knight Rayearth** and others, their beautiful characters and designs always inspire.

Franco Zefferelli's **Romeo and Juliet**- I love this movie for its richness. Recently, I saw **Dangerous Beauty**, which I

also found very inspiring, especially considering a future Fehnnik tale concerns a courtesan.

History- Yup, that's right, much of the Fehnnik culture is drawn from my interest in history! Specific periods include the Italian Renaissance, ancient Japan (pre-Edo period), ancient Egypt, and the Byzantine era, though I have to admit I'll read pretty much anything about Europe, the Mediterranean or Asia up until about the 1500-1600s. I'm no historian though, so please don't test me on my knowledge!

Love & Rockets by Jaime & Gilbert Hernandez- I didn't actually derive any direct inspiration for **TOTF** from the work of Los Bros, but suffice it to say that I would not be in comics if it weren't for them. When I was an impressionable teen, their work showed me there was more to comics than just superheroes, and their encouragement and support after I entered the pro comics field has been a true inspiration.

2) No, what really inspired you? You know, for the first one-shot?

This series that is running now is actually the storyline I first came up with, but when I proposed it at Antarctic, they suggested I do a one-shot first to test the market. The first story I came up with for that (*Jaiva's Star*, which concerns the courtesan I mentioned above) was a bit too dark for an introductory chapter, so I came up with the other one. It is *very* loosely inspired by the short story "Miai no Hi" by Inoue Yasushi, a Japanese short story.

3) What music do you listen to when you write?

I've gotten this question quite a bit. The music I listen to when writing **TOTF** has been pretty constant, despite my wacky musical tastes at other times. The music that most said Fehnniks to me was Loreena McKennitt: **Book of Secrets**; Enya: **Watermark**, **The Memory of Trees**, **Paint the Sky with Stars**, and **Shepherd Moons**. I also listened to the soundtracks for **Nausicaa**, **Laputa**, **Mononoke Hime** and **Record of Lodoss War**. If there was any one song that I would have to pick as the definitive Fehnnik song, I would have to say it was "Ebudae" by Enya from **Shepherd Moons**.

4) Why are they foxes?

I wanted to depict an alien culture, and using anthropomorphic characters made that easier. However, the story could be told just as easily with human characters, or cabbages for characters. But also, I just really like fennec foxes. They're really cute and those big ears look really cool with lots of earrings.

5) How the heck do you pronounce "Fehnnik"?

Pretty much how it looks. It's a purposeful misspelling of "fennec". Of course, my first name is pronounced just how it looks too, and people are always wrestling with it, so here we go: FEH-nik. And my first name is el-in. Next issue we'll teach you how to pronounce Arsenault!

That should be enough explanations for now- I've shown enough of the wires, I think. Besides, if I write too much more, there'll be no point to reading the stories. The guest pinups this issue are by Andi Watson and Gan Metaru. Andi is the author of the brilliant comic **Skeleton Key** from Slave Labor. (Graphic novels are still available of all the issues!) His newest project is called **Geisha** and will be coming out from Oni Press later this year. Gan Metaru is a Japanese artist who works in the gaming industry. His other American work has been published in **Hit the Beach** and **Genus**.

Special thanks go out to Pat Duke, my parents Kate Winkler and George Groschen, my huge passel of sibs who demanded the next issue every time they talked to me (Dave, Cheli, Nicky, Ian and Nelson), James Hanrahan, Scotty (for doing such a great job), and of course, to all the friends, readers and fans who waited so patiently and who offered so much support. I hope that you are not disappointed.

—Elin

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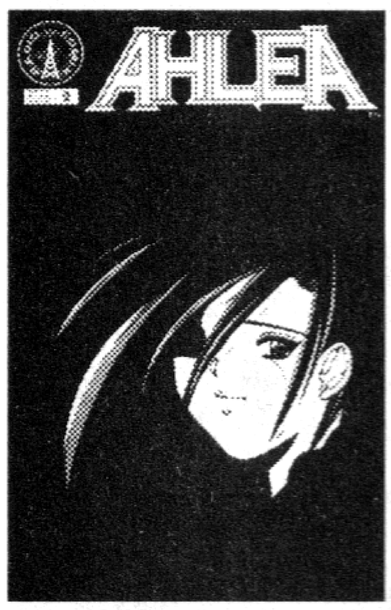

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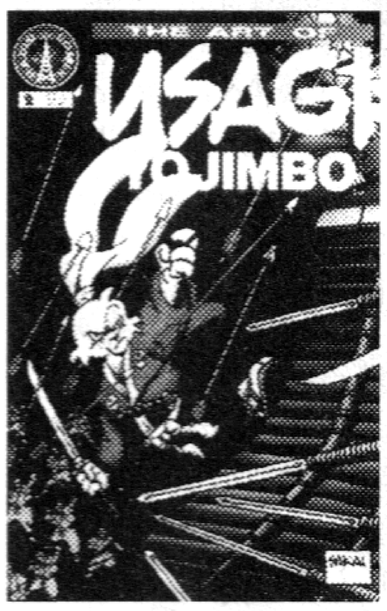

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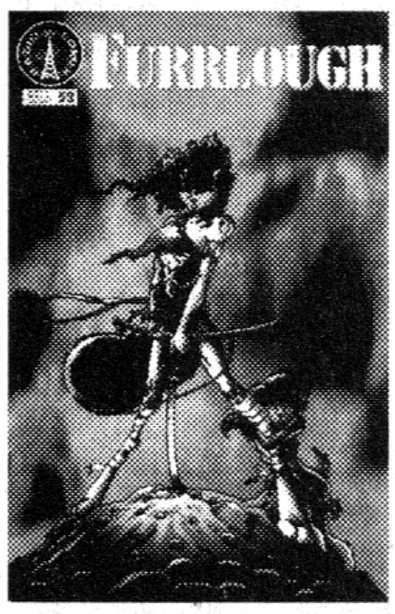

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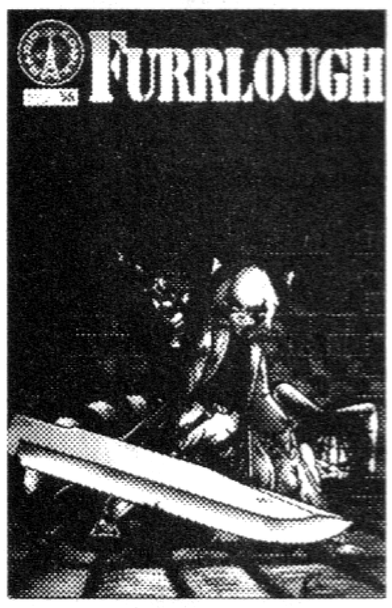

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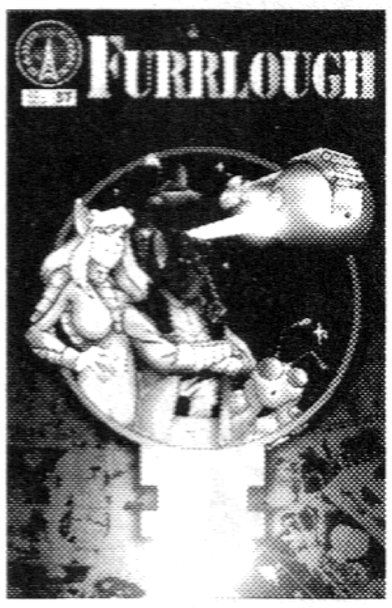

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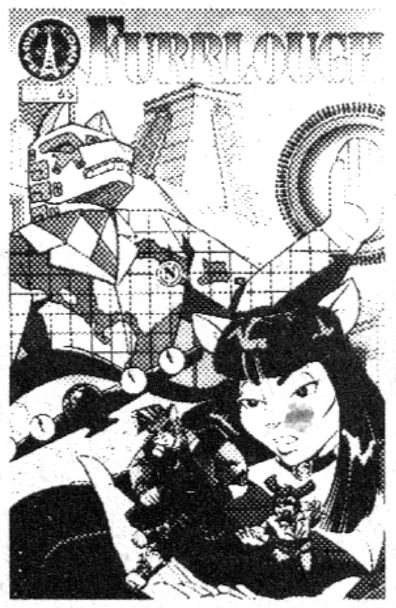

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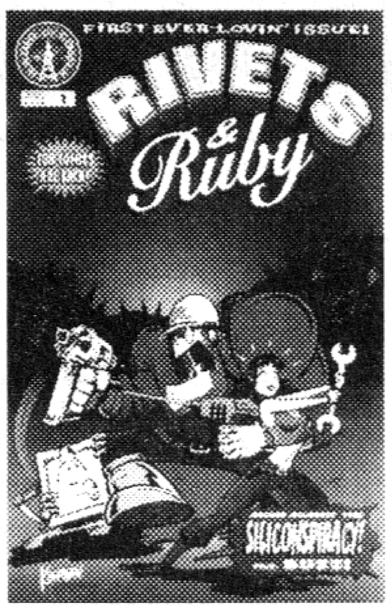

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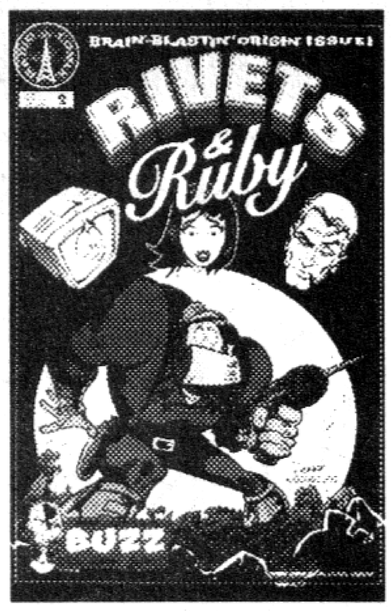

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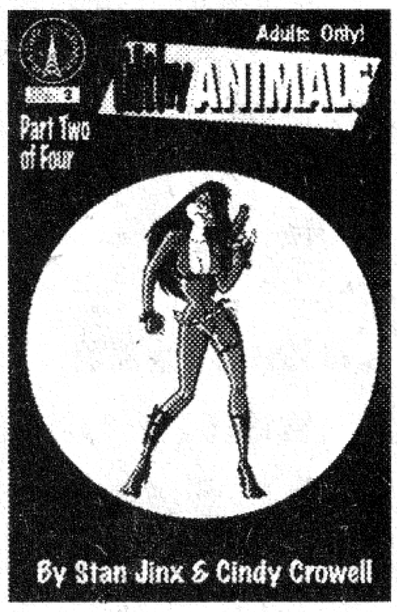

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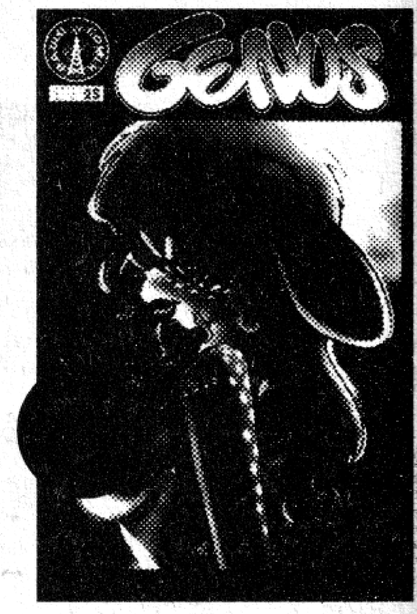

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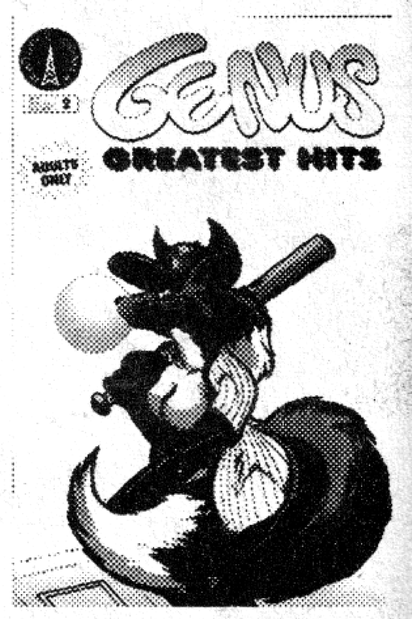

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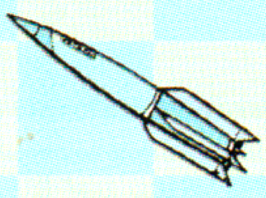

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